



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS FOR GROWERS IN THE MADERA COUNTY GSAs

July 2026



COUNTY GSA COMMITTEE MEETING

In case you missed the Madera County GSA Committee meeting on July 14, 2026, the recording and agenda packets can be viewed on the [County GSA Committee](#) webpage. Information can also be found on the [Board meeting portal](#).

The next Madera County GSA Committee Meeting is scheduled for
August 04, 2026 at 1:30 PM.

COUNTY GSA BOARD MEETING

The next County GSA Board Meeting is scheduled for **July 21, 2026.**

For more information, visit the [Board meeting portal](#) to view the full agenda packet and recording.

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

SGMA Ready Crops for the San Joaquin Valley

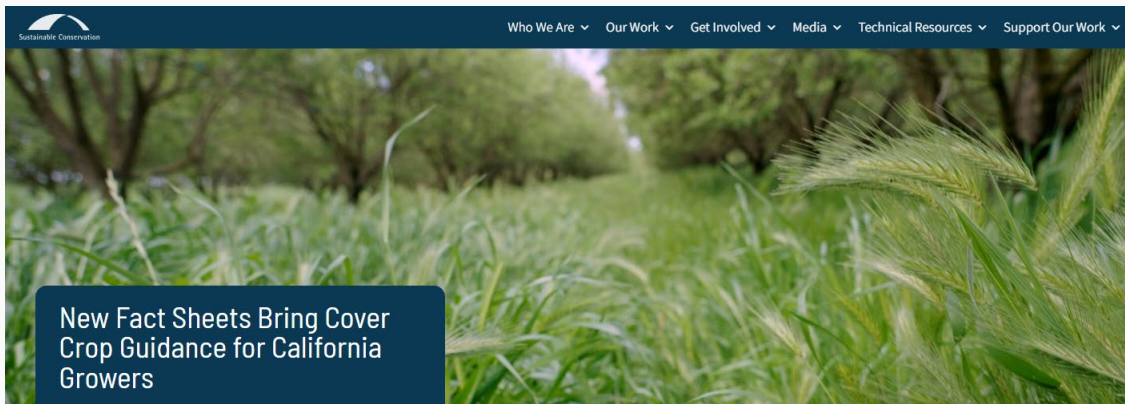


PPIC Water Policy Center has released two new publications and is hosting a virtual presentation and panel discussion on July 28th from 11 AM to 12 PM exploring how SGMA implementation is going and how SGMA-ready crops could aid farmland transitions currently underway in the San Joaquin Valley.

Report: [SGMA-Ready Crops as a Low-Water Alternative to Fallowing](#)

Policy Brief: [The Financial Viability and Broader Benefits of SGMA-Ready Crops](#)

New Cover Crop Grower Guidance Fact Sheets



Cover Cropping in California's Water-Scarce Environments

Sustainable Conservation and partners have released three new fact sheets expanding the [Cover Cropping in California's Water Scarce Environments](#) series with in-depth guidance for three distinct cropping contexts California growers are navigating across the Central Valley's varied regions and weather years.

Click the links below to review the fact sheets:

1. [Cover cropping beyond winter in perennial systems](#)
2. [Cover cropping for land repurposing](#)

3. [Cover cropping in annual systems](#)

Each fact sheet combines the latest research with grower experience on the ground, going well beyond general cover crop guidance to meet farmers where they are. The suite builds on the foundation of practical considerations for managing cool-season cover crops with maximal water benefits and minimal water use laid out in the [May 2025 guidance document](#), and extends it with a depth of context, data, and practical implementation detail.

Groundwater Demand Management Survey



The purpose of this survey is to inquire the awareness and approval of groundwater demand management strategies in California. The responses given in this survey are anonymous and no personal information will be stored or shared. This survey is part of a research project at the UC Davis Hydrologic Sciences Graduate Group. Thank you for your interest and participation in this survey.

Use this link or click the button below to take the survey:

[UC Davis Groundwater Demand Management Survey](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to
Zoe Frausto at zefrausto@ucdavis.edu

[Click Here for the Survey](#)

Barn Owl Nest Boxes



Rodents are a major concern for growers in nearly all agroecosystems globally. In the southern Central Valley, a particularly severe and ongoing rat outbreak is devastating nut orchards, causing an estimated \$100-300 million dollars of damage to almond orchards in 2024 alone. While rodents have traditionally been managed with rodenticides, increasing awareness of non-target impacts has led to recent, strict statewide limits on anticoagulant rodenticide use, hindering growers' ability to contend with escalating rodent pressure. This proposal seeks to test, refine, demonstrate, and disseminate a new integrated and sustainable rodent management plan for nut orchards in the Central Valley, leveraging both conservation biological control via barn owls and cutting-edge, rat trapping technologies.

Click the button below to read more and see how you can participate in the study.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

COURSES & WORKSHOPS

Master Milling Course

Join the UC Davis Olive Center for a three-day intensive class on olive oil milling. Gain advanced knowledge on milling principles, equipment, and processes to produce high-quality Extra Virgin Olive Oil. Designed for new and expert millers, and for professionals with an introductory knowledge of milling who are looking for the latest science in the art of making olive oil.

The course includes two days of lectures (Sept. 9-10th) and guided mill visits on the third day (Sept. 11th) for practical learning.

September 9-10th, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

September 11, 8:00 am - 3:35 pm.

Topics covered:

- Agronomic and post-harvest factors affecting olive oil quality
- Mill design and key processing considerations
- Fruit receiving, cleaning, crushing, paste preparation, and malaxation
- Decanter and separator operation
- Filtration principles and technologies
- Oil storage, quality control, and plant sanitation
- Byproduct management and sustainability
- Processing variables affecting oil quality, yield, and blending
- Economic analysis and case studies
- Industry perspectives on the next breakthrough in milling
- Guided visits to regional olive oil production facilities

Price: \$1,000 (\$1,200 after August 1st.)

The fee **includes** course materials, light breakfast, and lunch.

Last day to register: **September 2, 2026**

[Click Here for the Agenda](#)

[Click Here to Register](#)

Fresno State Smart Farm University Workshops

[Agritourism 101](#)

July 24, 2026 | 2pm - 3pm

Agritourism, inviting the public onto farms and ranches, can generate supplemental income for agricultural businesses and provide an outlet for direct-to-consumer sales. This workshop will provide a general overview of the opportunities and considerations for starting an agritourism business, including: safety and liability, regulations and zoning, and marketing.

Triple F Ranch & Farming Forest

July 31, 2026 | 2pm - 3pm

A conversation with Richard Felipe; a fourth-generation farmer from Hanford, California who over the past four years has eliminated all synthetic inputs on his 200-acre pistachio ranch. He'll share why they transitioned to regenerative farming and the challenges faced along the way. They now focus on building soil biology with compost extracts, integrating livestock, and improving soil health to produce better-quality food; all the while lowering costs and strengthening yields over time.

If you choose to register, you will be automatically enrolled into all workshops.

All workshops held at:
Center for Irrigation Technology
5370 N Chestnut Ave,
Fresno, CA 93740

[Click Here to Register](#)

CONTACT US

For questions, please contact your Water Resources Specialist directly.

Aleta Allen
(559) 831-7166
aleta.allen@maderacounty.com

Leticia Tapia
(559) 831-7172
leticia.tapia@maderacounty.com

Jacinta Cabral
(559) 831-7173
jacinta.cabral@maderacounty.com

Tukta Phetasa
(559) 514-4819
tukta.phetasa@maderacounty.com

If you don't know who your Water Resources Specialist is you can reach us at (559) 662-8015, email ETmeasurement@maderacounty.com, or visit our [website](#) to [schedule an appointment](#).



*Madera County Water & Natural Resources, 200 West 4th Street, Suite 3100, Madera, CA 93637
Phone: 559-662-8015.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).